

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1-3 and 8-11 are canceled; claims 4 and 6 are amended; and new claim 12 is added by the instant amendment.

Claim 4 is amended to correct informalities set forth in the 112 rejection, and further to recite a fingerprint image obtained with the object not in contact with the imaging section of the apparatus, which is believed to patentably define over the prior art. Furthermore, newly added claim 12 is believed patentable in view of the prior art, and consistent with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 6 is rewritten as an independent claim as suggested by the Examiner in the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

If the examiner would like to discuss Applicant's invention prior to issuing an action, the Examiner should feel free to contact the undersigned attorney.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that each of pending claims 4-7 and 12 are patentable over the prior art. Allowance of the pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _____

9/3/04

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